

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 236705

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236705

STADIS//////////

PASS MYRON KRATZER/IAEA CONFERENCE FROM KUX AND HOYLE

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: TECH, IN

SUBJECT: TALKS WITH SETHNA

1. NEW SNAG HAS ARISEN ON SCHEDULING TALKS WITH SETHNA. VENKATESWARAN, INDIAN DCM, CALLED SEPTEMBER 23 TO SAY THAT VELLODI, WHO IS MEMBER OF INDIAN UN DELEGATION, WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE, BUT IS TIED UP WITH UN BUSINESS SEPTEMBER 28 AND WONDERS IF WE CAN HOLD SUBSTANTIVE TALKS SEPTEMBER 29. WE SAID WE WOULD PASS THIS ON TO YOU IN RIO SO YOU COULD RESOLVE MATTER WITH SETHNA DIRECTLY.

2. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE THINK IT PREFERABLE THAT WE AGREE TO VELLODI'S REQUEST. CUTTING MFA OUT OF SEPTEMBER 28 TALKS COULD CREATE ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS ON INDIAN SIDE. IN ADDITION, ON THE BASIS OF SLOW GOING IN PRELIMINARY WORK HERE IN FIRING UP "CONCEPT" TO BE DISCUSSED WITH SETHNA, AN ADDITIONAL DAY NEXT WEEK WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO US.

3. PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW YOU AND SETHNA COME OUT ON THIS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 236705

VENKATESWARAN SAID THEY ARE CABLING SETHNA THROUGH INDIAN

CHANNELS ASKING HIM TO DELAY HIS DEPARTURE ONE DAY SO THAT VELLODI CAN JOIN IN TALKS.

4. BILL COURTNEY IS BACK IN THE STATES BECAUSE OF DEATH OF

HIS FATHER AND DAVE SCHNEIDER AND SPIKE DUBS BOTH FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO SIT IN ON TALKS WITH SETHNA NEXT WEEK. ASSUME YOU HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THIS.

5. IN THE EVENT WE HAVE ANY PRESS QUERIES ABOUT SETHNA, WE PROPOSE TO TAKE THE LINE THAT HE IS PASSING THROUGH THE STATES ON WAY HOME FROM RIO AND STOPPING OFF TO CONTINUE THE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS YOU BEGAN LAST MONTH IN BOMBAY. SOME OF THE INDIAN JOURNALISTS HAVE WIND OF HIS STOPOVER. ROBINSON

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